

RECEPTION SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
MARCH 2, 1987

I AM HONORED TO RECEIVE THE 1987 SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES AWARD. I ACCEPT THE AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF OUR SHARED GOAL OF ASSURING THAT EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD -- REGARDLESS OF INCOME -- RECEIVE THE BEST PRIMARY HEALTH CARE THIS COUNTRY HAS TO OFFER.

I AM AN UNABASHED SUPPORTER OF COMMUNITY AND MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS. YOUR REPUTATION IN THE CONGRESS IS THAT YOU ARE PROVIDING EXCELLENT, HIGH QUALITY CARE TO YOUR COMMUNITIES AND THAT YOU ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING THE POOR AND UNINSURED. IF CONGRESS GAVE AWARDS, YOU WOULD BE THE FIRST IN LINE.

COMMUNITY AND MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS AND YOUR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN THE LAST SIX YEARS. WE HAVE FENDED OFF THE IDEOLOGUES WHO WOULD TUCK YOU AWAY IN SOME OVERLOADED BLOCK GRANT. WE HAVE AVOIDED THE BUDGET AXE THAT HAS CUT SO MANY VALUABLE HEALTH PROGRAMS.

BUT LET US NOT REST ON OUR LAURELS. OUR JOBS ARE NEVER DONE. WE HAVE A RECORD NUMBER OF UNINSURED TO SERVE. WE HAVE A STUBBORNLY HIGH INFANT MORTALITY RATE TO BRING DOWN.

YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE TWO BILLS I INTRODUCED TODAY.

THE FIRST, H.R. 1327, EXTENDS THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS FOR THREE YEARS. THE BILL INCLUDES A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM TO COMPLIMENT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

YOU KNOW WELL THAT WE ARE REACHING A CRISIS POINT WITH THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS. IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, WE WILL LOSE OVER 2,000 PROVIDERS. WE MUST GO ALL OUT, THIS YEAR, TO EXTEND THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS. WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF WAITING FOR A BETTER ADMINISTRATION IN 1988.

THE SECOND BILL, H.R. 1326, AUTHORIZES \$30 MILLION OF NEW MONEY FOR COMMUNITY AND MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS FOR OUR WAR ON INFANT MORTALITY. WE MUST PROVIDE YOU THE RESOURCES TO REACH POOR AND UNINSURED PREGNANT WOMEN EARLY IN THEIR PREGNANCY AND INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN BEFORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS DEVELOP.

THESE NEW FUNDS ARE A PART OF AN INFANT MORTALITY INITIATIVE WHICH I AM PROPOSING THIS YEAR. THE OTHER TWO PARTS OF THE INITIATIVE INCLUDE A MEDICAID BILL, H.R. 1018, WHICH WILL EXTEND MEDICAID TO ADDITIONAL PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND A BILL DEALING WITH TEENAGE PREGNANCY WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN INTRODUCED.

I KNOW THESE BILLS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU AND THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR HELP.

AS YOU KNOW, A BILL PROVIDING HEALTH CARE, SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS WILL BE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR THIS WEEK. THE

BILL INCLUDES \$75 MILLION FOR OUTPATIENT HEALTH SERVICES. I FULLY EXPECT THAT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THIS NEW GRANT PROGRAM AND THAT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WILL MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

WORKING TOGETHER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT ALL THESE IMPORTANT BILLS CAN BE PASSED.

IN CLOSING, LET ME AGAIN SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THIS AWARD. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS YEAR.

MEMO

To: Henry

From: Bill

Subject: CHC Reception Monday March 2, 1987

Date: March 2, 1987

The National Association of Community Health Centers is in Washington for its 12th annual Policy and Issues Forum. They are holding an informal 30 minute reception, beginning at 6:00 p.m., to present you the 1987 Special Health Services Award.

They suggested a "five minute" acceptance speech.